

# THE USE OF METAPHOR IN *INVICTUS* FILM

\*Theresia

\*\*Meisuri

English and Literature Department, Faculty of Language and Arts  
State University of Medan (UNIMED)

## ABSTRACT

The aims of this article are to find out the types of metaphor, and to describe the implication of the most dominant type of metaphor used in the *Invictus* film. By using documentary technique, six selected scene were taken randomly from the script, there were fifty dialogues uttered by Nelson Mandela used as the sample. The data were analyzed by using descriptive qualitative technique. It was found are six types of metaphor used in *Invictus* film and the most dominant type of metaphor is Subjective Metaphor. This implies that the films tends to show the portray of Nelson Mandela as the President of South Africa who is subjectively in constructing his ideas, opinions and message in the film about sport and apartheid.

**Keywords:** film, *Invictus*, Metaphor

## INTRODUCTION

### Background of Study

Language had an important role in our daily live as a tool of people to communicate each other. People use language in order to share their opinions, feelings and experiences in many ways, for instance by using metaphor to make assertion in speech.

Metaphor is well known as a stylistic feature of literature, and for most people, a device of the poetic imagination or figurative speech and extraordinary language which is commonly and widely use. Metaphor plays an important role in our understanding of language and of the world we describe through language that it is called a deviant or unusual use of language (Camp 2006:158). The used of metaphor is

to make someone's way of speaking becomes more attractive and sounds beautiful because it contains meaningful words with a deeper meaning.

Metaphor in a pragmatics is used in society to make the communication more understandable in a certain language community. Lakoff & Johnson (1980) contributed to establish the importance of conceptual metaphor as a framework for thinking in language. They found that metaphor is pervasive in everyday life, not just in language, but in thought and action.

As a representation of real conversation in natural society, film is a series of pictures or images that tell a story communicating an idea about the world. The using of metaphor showed in the film by dialogues of the characters when the main character wants to influence or interact with other characters. Film not only entertains people but also educates and enlightens the citizens. Through film, we can step into the future to experience what life might be like in forty, one hundred or one thousand years from now.

It is important to study metaphor in the film because the study made the readers saw the usage of metaphor in film not only as one ordinary or poetic language but also statements that inspires or prompts the insight that have a big value in life.

This study also intended to show that metaphor is a powerful tool in politics, as it serves as a tool of legitimization of political leaders and helps to organize social practices (Lesz, 2011).

### **Research Question**

This article deals with the use of metaphor in *Invictus* film. The analysis will be focused on the types of metaphor, the dominant type of metaphor and the implication of the most dominant type of Metaphor used in *Invictus* film.

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **Metaphor**

Goatly (1997) defines that metaphor occurs when a unit of discourse is used to refer unconventionally to an object, process or concept, or colligates in an unconventionally way. A metaphor is the expression of an understanding of one concept in terms of another concept, where there is some similarity or correlation between the

two. Metaphor can be understood as a mapping from a source domain to a target domain. Lakoff and Johnson (1980) adopted a strategy namely mappings, *Target domain is source domain*, or alternatively, *target domain as source domain*. The target domain is the domain that we try to understand through the use of the source domain. So in LOVE IS A JOURNEY, Love is a target and Journey is a source.

### **Types of Metaphor**

Goatly (1997:126) states that metaphor has eight types, they are:

#### **Active Metaphor**

An Active metaphor is one kind of metaphor which has close relationship between the main subject and modifier. It depends on the interaction of the vehicle (unconventional referent) and the particular topic (conventional referent) which is being referred to, and their ground will consequently be variable according to the context. For example: You are *my baby doll*

#### **Inactive Metaphor**

Inactive metaphor is a metaphor where the topic is referred to directly through a conventional and fixed the meaning of V-term and the vehicle is available, but will be wired in parallel under normal processing, otherwise the topic concept so predictable. Inactive or familiar metaphors often give information which can provoke an affirmative or negative response. Inactive metaphors are open to agreement negative question and yes or no question.

For example: Blue substitutes the sadness and tears

#### **Subjective Metaphor**

Subjective metaphor is the description of metaphor because the speaker has different ideological view of the word from the hearer or some which involve the presentation of another's speaker thought or representation.

For example: They have made a game of my whole life

#### **Mimetic Metaphor**

Mimetic metaphor is the unique metaphor that extends to non-verbal expression straying beyond linguistics text into visual aid plastics art. Mimetic metaphor demands the readers to imagine the world in which the assertions are literary true. The interesting about mimetic metaphor is that its interpretation differs from the normal kind of metaphorical interpretation.

For example: the red carpet had an oriental tree on it.

### **Phenomenalistic Metaphor**

Phenomenalistic is the use of language to refer to real language, and in this case referred to imaginary world. Phenomenalistics construal one must realize does simply apply to the portion of fictional texts that are anomalous in some way or contains local metaphor. If the text is fictional then it will be consistency to an imaginary world. A complete novel can be a phenomenalistic metaphor if the novel is entirely a story of a fictive world or imaginary.

For example: *Lord of the Flies* as a reaction to *The Coral Island*

### **Precision Metaphor**

Precision metaphor is about the process or quality that is made more precisely by being related, through modification, to a specific first-order identity. The modification can be in form of unit of linguistics.

For example: My cry for help was *the cry of the rat* when a terrier shakes it.

### **Symbolism Metaphor**

Symbolism metaphor is a particular kind of substitution of the interpretation.

For example: Do not *count* your chicken before they are hatched

### **Approximately Metaphor**

Approximately metaphor is a kind of metaphor that uses the approximate number or expression to describe action or thing.

For example: He puts in face in the water and *half* gulped, *half* eat it.

### **Film**

Film is a series of moving pictures recorded with sound that tells a story, shown on television or at the cinema or theater (Oxford dictionary). A film also called movie or motion picture. It also tells a story communicating an idea about the world. Films are cultural artifacts created by specific cultures which reflect those cultures and in turn affect them. Film is considered to be an important art form, a source of popular entertainment and a powerful method for educating or indoctrinating citizens. *Invictus* film tells the inspiring true story about how Nelson Mandela inspires the captain of South Africa's rugby team to help unite the country through the universal language of sport that is separated by the apartheid at the time (<http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/invictus>). This film portray how Nelson Mandela as the President of South Africa at the time stands as an inspiration to people throughout South Africa by his language which is also portray him as a charismatic, educated and strong leader.

## METHODOLOGY

The data were taken by using documentary technique. Documentary technique means reading, studying, and analyzing the script of *Invictus* film. The techniques for analyzing data of this article consisted of (1) Identifying the dialogues of main character sentence by sentence (2) Classifying the metaphor into 8 types of metaphor based on Goatly's theory (3) Finding out the dominant metaphor (5) Describing the findings and making conclusion based on the result of analysis.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Result

**Table 1 the Number and percentage of the types of metaphor in *Invictus* film**

No.	Types of Metaphor	Total Number	Percentage
1.	Active Metaphor	2	4%
2.	Inactive Metaphor	10	20%
3.	Subjective Metaphor	27	54%
4.	Mimetic Metaphor	-	-
5.	Phenomenalistic Metaphor	-	-
6.	Precision Metaphor	6	12%

7.	Symbolism Metaphor	3	6%
8.	Approximate Metaphor	2	4%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	50	100%

Table 1 shows there are six types of metaphor found in *Invictus* film namely active, inactive, subjective, precision, symbolism and approximate metaphor. The total number of metaphor is 50 metaphors and the percentages are: active is two (4%), inactive is ten (20%), subjective is twenty-seven (54%), precision is six (12%), symbolism is three (6%), and approximate is two (4%). The most dominant type of metaphor in the film is Subjective Metaphor with 54%. The following are the examples of each type of metaphor analysis.

1) Active Metaphor

“It’s human calculation.” (Scene 25 )

Explanation: this utterance means that human calculation has a similarity to the concept of it (rugby). The word *human calculation* is unconventional referred to *rugby (it)*, so that this utterance belongs to active metaphor.

2) Inactive Metaphor

“The past is the past, we look to the future, now.” (Scene 10)

Explanation: the word *past* is conventional to the hearer (the staffs) that is referred to the Apartheid happened long time ago in South Africa before Mandela elected as the President of South Africa. So this utterance belongs to inactive metaphor where the information can provoke the staffs did not resign from the office.

3) Subjective Metaphor

“I cannot talk to them, hiding behind men with guns.” (Scene 10)

Explanation: this utterance is the perception of Mandela and it different from the hearer (his bodyguards) wanted. Mandela describe talked in the public with the bodyguards in front of him showed there is a gap between the leader with his people, and it will be better to face to face. So this utterance belongs to subjective metaphor.

4) Precision Metaphor

“Our enemy is no longer the Afrikaner; they are our fellow South Africans, our partners in democracy.” (Scene 24)

Explanation: the word *Afrikaner* is being modified more precisely by the words *fellow South Africans*, and *partners in democracy*, uttered by Mandela that Afrikaner is not only in the Springboks team but also in their society, in South Africa. So this utterance belongs to precision metaphor.

#### 5) Symbolism Metaphor

“If we can manage that, our country will be a shining light in the world.” (Scene 10)

Explanation: Mandela interpreted if South Africa is prosperity and peaceful country it will be like a star in the night. So this utterance belongs to symbolism metaphor.

#### 6) Approximate Metaphor

“I am one hundred percent behind our enemy.” (Scene 60)

Explanation: this utterance also belongs to approximate metaphor, where the statement *one hundred percent* used Mandela to describe that he totally supports the Springbok team in the championship.

### Discussion

This article concerns with the types of metaphor in *Invictus* film. *Invictus* film is a 2009 biographical sports drama that story is adepted from John Carlin book *Playing the Enemy: Nelson Mandela and the Game That Changed a Nation*, the story about the events in South Africa before and during the 1995 Rugby World Cup where South Africa as the host otherwise racially and economically divided in the wake of apartheid. This film is interested to be watched because this film was voted as one of the best movie in 2009 by *rottentomatoes.com* and also the words or sentence uttered by the main character Mandela which is inspire.

The data were taken from the script of *invictus* film. From six selected scene of film, 50 utterances used as the sample which contain type of metaphor. Lakoff & Johnson (1980) found that metaphor is pervasive in everyday life, not just in language, but in thought and action. This indicates metaphor are also found in the film because film is a representation of real conversation in natural society beside through film, we can step into the future to experience what life might be like in forty, one hundred or one thousand years from now or the past, and the use of metaphor shows in the

utterances uttered by the character this case is Nelson Mandela as the main character in giving his opinions, experiences and messages in the film that portray as an educated, charismatic and strong leader.

The findings of this research in the previous page show there are six types of eight metaphors namely active, inactive, subjective, precision, symbolism and approximate metaphor. It is also found that subjective metaphor is dominantly used in the film. This implies that the film tends to show the portrayal of Nelson Mandela as the President of South Africa who is subjectively in constructing his ideas, opinions and message in the film about sport and apartheid. The use of metaphor was showed when he was giving an oration to all his staffs and his supporter's black, inspiring the captain of springboks, and trying to open the way his bodyguards and secretary ideas about rainbow nation, and to the public through the interview with the reporter.

This also proven that A person is identified by the language he uses where the uses of language may determine what profession a person belongs to. This tied up with the register, the context of language use.

Other research that also discuss the use of metaphor Cahyadi (2010), based on Goatly's theory found that there are eight types of metaphor in Red Hot Chili Pepper's song lyrics and the most dominant type is subjective metaphor which is used by the song writer to represent the speaker's different ideological/physical view from the hearer.

The other researchers, Furthermore Rokhimah (2009) focused on the metaphors that found in five of Wordsworth's poems dealing with the lower class societies. She found three kinds of metaphorical expression in the poems such as, nominative metaphor, predicative metaphor, and sentential metaphor. The predicative metaphor is the dominant kind of metaphor that is found in the poems. In understanding the meaning of the poems, the poems deal with the hierarchy human space perception they are: being, cosmos, energy, substantial, terrestrial, object, living, animate, and human. The result in this case is dominated by the "object" as one kind of the hierarchy human space perceptions. These proven that metaphor can be analysis in other media such as news, song, novels, and speeches



## CONCLUSION

By the discussion about the use of metaphor above, it can be concluded six types of metaphor found in the “*Invictus*” film uttered by main character Nelson Mandela, namely active metaphor, inactive metaphor, subjective metaphor, precisions metaphor, symbolism metaphor, and approximate Metaphor. Mimetic metaphor and phenomenalist metaphor did not find in *Invictus* film because both of the types are tended use to the imaginary world or fiction story. The *Invictus* film is a biographical based on the true story about the president of South Africa Nelson Mandela. Subjective metaphor is dominantly used in “*Invictus*” film. this implies that the films tends to show the portray of Nelson Mandela as the President of South Africa who is subjectively in constructing his ideas, opinions and message in the film about sport and apartheid.

## SUGGESTIONS

Based on the conclusions, the following suggestions are directed to:

1. Contribute to the English Department especially to the students who study Metaphor to help them understand and comprehend it and enrich their knowledge about metaphor in Pragmatics.
2. Other researchers who want to do some researches about Metaphor in other media beside film in other subjects such as news, speeches, songs, advertisements, and interviews as a comparison or source in conducting further study.

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